Toriſm and *Trade*

Can never Agree.

To which is added, An

ACCOUNT and CHARACTER

OF THE

MERCATOR

AND HIS

WRITINGS.

PARTICULARLY

His former Diſcourſes againſt the LAND-INTEREST, and a TRADE with *FRANCE.*

In a Letter to Sir G — H——

LONDON:

Printed: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* near the *Oxford Arms* in *Warwick Lane.*

(Price 6 *d.*)

Advertiſement.

THere is in the Preſs and will be publiſh'd with all convenient ſpeed, *A Liſt*, &c. with Advice to the Freeholders and Traders of *Great Britain*. By the ſame Hand.

ERRATA.

PAge 30. Line 26. for *Interrogation* put *Comma.*
Page ditto, Line 30. for *Full Stop* put *Comma.*

SIR,

I am surpriz'd that a Man of your good Sense shou'd not expect that the *Tories* will, upon all Occasions, be Enemies to Trade. Trade is the great Support of Liberty, and Liberty is as inconsistent with *Torism*, as Moderation is with Popery, or Vice with Virtue. The *Tories* have an old Grudge against Trade, which they will never forget nor forgive. The Reformation in *Germany*, *France*, and *England*, began first among Tradesmen and Mechanicks. Industry is an effect of Sobriety, Idleness and Bigotry go always together; People are too Lazy to inform themselves of the Truth, and therefore believe as their Grandfathers did. Trade naturally encreases Property, and Property and Tyranny are Incompatible. There never was a Nation famous for Trade, but that Nation was Free, and there are not

two greater Contraries in Nature than *Freedom* and *Toriſm*. Poverty is the ſure fore-runner of Slavery; People that have nothing to loſe but their Liberty, are not ſo ſollicitous to defend it as when 'tis accompany'd with Property, and if they can be made Poor, which is ſoon done without Trade, it will be no hard matter to make Slaves of them. They'll be ready enough to ſell themſelves to the firſt Purchaſer.

As the *Papiſts* and *Tories* are on the ſame Foot among us, with reſpect to their Principles, that is, they are alike Enemies to the Revolution, to the Proteſtant Succeſſion, to Moderation and Union; ſo one may take it for granted, that whatever a *Papiſt* ſays of Trade a *Tory* will certainly ſubſcribe to it, and therefore I ſhall tell you a ſaying of the Earl of *Caſtlemain*'s on this ſubject, not with reſpect to this Trade or that Trade, but to any Trade at all. 'Tis in a Narrative of his publiſh'd 40 Years ago: *England*, ſays he, *can ſubſiſt without Trade, which is not at all Neceſſary. We remember by our Hiſtories when it began here. The* Venetians, *the* Genoeſe, *the* Flemings, *and the* Jews, *were us'd to bring us Superfluities, and manag'd the Traffick of the Nation. However 'twas then*

then we conquer'd France. There's no occaſion of Ships and Seamen, according to this Hypotheſis. We have Corn enough, and let thoſe that want it fetch it. We have Wool enough, and never need fear Nakedneſs. As to Wooden Walls, which cannot be ſupported without Trade, 'tis no matter, we ſhou'd without it be ſafe in our Poverty, and with all our Corn and all our Cloth be ſuch Beggars, that it wou'd not be worth the while of any Nation to conquer us, unleſs it was to tranſplant us, and put People in our Place that know better how to value ſo great a Bleſſing as Trade is.

I have hinted already, that the *Papiſts* and *Tories* muſt of courſe have an Averſion to a Thing that gave Strength to the firſt Reformers, and ſettled the Reformation in *Europe* Hardly a free City, or Hanſe-Town in *Germany*, where Trade flouriſh'd, but the Reformation was embrac'd. Wealth is the Child of Trade, and Parent of Power. By Wealth they grew Strong, and defended their Liberty and Religion. This muſt be a terrible Grievance to *Toriſm* and *Popery*, and they cannot think of the Services done by the Proteſtant Republick of the United Provinces to

Religion and Liberty, to do which they have been enabled by Trade only, without an abhorrence of the very Name of Trade.

There are two little Spots of Ground in *Italy* ſurrounded by *Tories* and *Papiſts*, Men of Idolatrous and Arbitrary Principles, Beggars and Perſecutors; I mean thoſe of *Lucca* and *Geneva*. Trade flouriſhes in both theſe petty Commonwealths. The People are Free and Induſtrious: Thoſe that are Induſtrious will be Rich, and thoſe that are Rich will, if they can, be Free. The whole Dominions of that little Republick of *Lucca* are contain'd in the Limits of 6 or 7 Miles ſquare, yet in that Compaſs they are able to raiſe 20000 Horſe and Foot. The *Lucqueſe* are wonderfully Induſtrious, and enrich themſelves by their Manufactures, as the *Dutch* do by their Foreign Trade. As to *Geneva* I ſhall repeat the Words of an Anonymous Author, in a Pamphlet publiſh'd three or four and twenty Years ago. 'The City is as one Hand 'in Labour and Arts, not a Perſon to 'be ſeen without Employment, and 'few or none Ignorant or unconcern'd 'in his Religion, but both making a 'Joint and, as it were, mutual Pro-

'greſs;

'greſs: And indeed, according to the 'preſent State and Condition of that 'Place, there ſeems to be ſuch a Ne-'ceſſity for their Dependance one up-'on another, as that it cannot be ſup-'pos'd that either cou'd be ſupported 'without its Concomitant, and both 'of them thrive to a miraculous Aug-'mentation and Improvement, not-'withſtanding that they are enclos'd 'and fenc'd about by Enemies to both. 'Beſides that, it is a City ſituate with-'in the Land, and has not ſo large a 'Territory belonging to it as apper-'tains to ſome of our Nobility in their 'Demeſnes, yet it bears the Character 'of a Common-wealth, and conſi-'der'd in all its Circumſtances in re-'ſpect of its Circuit, People, *&c.* may 'be thought the moſt Formidable 'Place of ſo ſmall a Tract of Ground, 'and ſo little a number of Men, that 'is in the Univerſe.' Thus it is plain, that where Induſtry and Trade flouriſh, there will flouriſh a Spirit of Liberty, which in the Language of *Toriſm* is *Republican* and *Antimonarchical*, as I have ſeen aſſerted in ſeveral Addreſſes, Old and New, and one cannot have better Authority for any thing, they are ſo conſiſtent one with another,

and

and ſhew ſo well the Ingenuity and Conſtancy of this Nation. Now whatever encourages a Spirit of Liberty, muſt eternally be hateful to the *Tories*, who build their Principles on Arbitrary and Deſpotick Power: For this Reaſon it was that Sir *Roger L'Eſtrange* us'd in all his Papers to treat the Corporations and Compánies of Merchants and Tradeſmen, as ſo many Factious Aſſemblies and Nurſeries of Sedition, *London* being the Grand *Emporium* of the World, has never eſcap'd the ſevereſt Strokes of their Satyr. What Sir *Roger Manley* ſays of that City in his Hiſtory, that it is the *Old Forge of Rebellion*, has been plentifully improv'd by all their little Wits and Libellers, when the Citizens have at any time oppos'd their wicked Deſigns for betraying their Country; as they have done on many Occaſions, and I doubt not will on many do again: For tho' there is a certain way of Management, which may for a while turn the Bent of the City from its Natural Byaſs, tho' there may be Junctures when to appearance the Majority of this Populous and Wealthy City will run retrograde, and act againſt thoſe Principles that are their Security, tho' there will

be

be *North*'s and *Rich*'s, *Bolſworth*'s and *Genew*'s at all Times. 'Tis impoſſible that the City ſhou'd be without its *Pilkington*'s, its *Clayton*'s. 'Tis true, poor buſy Fellows will always be found ready to betray their Country on the firſt Temptation. Theſe will be very loud and active, great Pretenders to Loyalty, and flaming in their Zeal for what they are pleas'd to call the *Church* and *Crown*. But if you mind, you ſhall find them none of the Induſtrious thriving Tradeſmen, but Fellows ever walking on the terrible Precipice of Bankruptcy, and ſupporting themſelves by Corruption and Violence.

There cannot be wanting in ſo vaſt and ſo rich a City your *Aſhurſt*'s, *Heathcot*'s *Ward*'s, &c. Men who dare aſſert the City's and the Nation's Rights and Liberties; but there will alſo be your *Wi——s*, your *Cl——s*, your *La——s*, your *M——s*, who having not Brains enough to know their True Intereſt, or Honeſty to practiſe it, will be influenc'd by Counſels in which the City has no Share, and have a Crew of ſuch Whifflers, as your *Silks* and your *Catlins*, to declaim or Bully for them as the Caſe ſhall need. *The Men of no Buſineſs*, ſays a very Judicious Author, *are*

and

and have been the publick Disturbances and Incendiaries of a Nation. No Plots or Rebellions are brought upon the Stage, but are manag'd and prosecuted by this sort of Men, who are the most considerable Party among the Actors, who take no greater Pleasure in any thing than in fishing in troubled Waters, by which means they become not only Destructive to themselves, but allure and entice others, inveigling and drawing in those that are in a way of Trade and Business, to their Mischievous and Evil Practices, to the Irreversible Destruction of many Families. He goes on, *These are the Men that in the present Juncture of Affairs are the Plague and Rest of the Nation, that as Locusts swarm in all Places, ecchoing out the most extravagant Panegyricks upon their abdicated King. Of such indeed are his Party and Adherents compos'd, whose Actions carry an agreeable Resemblance, as well to the present Principles, as to the known Practices of the Church of* Rome.

I was mightily pleas'd to observe, that the Truth of my own Reflections was confirm'd by so good an Authority, and at such a distance of Time as immediately after the Revolution when this Gentleman wrote. That all the Mischief which can arise in the State, will

will proceed from the Folly and Fury of an Idle, Beggarly, Biggotted Faction, and by what Name to distinguish them is too well known for me to set a Mark on them. If we look a little farther back, as the Year 1680, when the Trade of *London* was at the height, when her Fleets fill'd the Ocean, and the *Thames* brought daily to her Bosom the Riches of both the *Indies*, we shall see what was then the Spirit of the *British* Capital. It was she who when the Bill of Exclusion was in Agitation, Voted a Petition for the setting of the Parliament, and an Address to his Majesty to declare their Loyalty, and to Petition him that the Parliament might set till *Protestantism was secur'd*, for which when the Parliament met, the House of Commons on the 10th of *January* 1680.

Resolv'd,

That the Thanks of this House be given to the City of London, *for their manifest Loyalty to the King, their Care, Charge and Vigilancy for the Preservation of his Majesty's Person, and of the Protestant Religion.*

At the ſame time there were ſevere Votes and Reſolutions againſt *Henry* Marquiſs of *Worceſter*, *Henry* Earl of *Clarendon*, *Lawrence Hyde*, Eſq; *Lewis* Earl of *Feverſham*, *&c.* and a Motion made for an Addreſs to his Majeſty to remove *Edward Seymour*, Eſq; from his Majeſty's Council and Preſence, and there was another Reſolution, which ſhews, with what Vigour an *Engliſh* Parliament proceeds when their Religion and Liberty are in danger, it paſs'd immediately before that of Thanks to the City of *London*, which the Houſe made, expecting every Minute a Meſſage for their Prorogation.

Reſolv'd,

That whoſoever adviſed his Majeſty to prorogue this Parliament to any other purpoſe than in order to the paſſing of a Bill for the Excluſion of James *Duke of* York *is a Betrayer of the King, the Proteſtant Religion and of the Kingdom of* England, *a Promoter of the* French *Intereſt, and a Penſioner to* France.

Having mention'd the Thanks of the Houſe of Commons to the City of *Loudon*, and that it was for their Peti-

Petition. I ſhall give the Subſtance of it, that the Reader may ſee how the Friends to Trade are Friends to the Proteſtant Religion, the Liberties of the Subjects, and how truly Loyal to their Sovereign. In it they ſet forth, that *there is a moſt Damnable and Helliſh Popiſh Plot branch'd forth into the moſt horrid Villanies againſt his Majeſty's moſt ſacred Perſon the Proteſtant Religion and the well eſtabliſh'd Government of the Realm, for which ſeveral of the Principal Conſpirators ſtand impeach'd by the Parliament. Therefore in ſuch a Time, when his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, the Proteſtant Religion and the Government of the Nation are in imminent Danger, they muſt humbly and earneſtly pray that the Parliament, which is prorogued until the* 26th *of* January, *may then ſit to try the Offenders, and to redreſs all the moſt important Grievances.*

The number of Hands to this Petition was ſo great, that the Roll which contain'd them was above an hundred Yards in length, and with the Citizens that carry'd it up went Sir *Gilbert Gerrard* and many other Gentlemen. Tho' this at firſt Sight may ſeem foreign to my Subject, yet it will not, on Reflection, appear ſo; for when we can

prove, that thoſe who oppos'd the progreſs of Popery and Arbitrary Power, were the moſt Numerous and Wealthy Part of this Trading City, it will of Conſequence ſtrengthen my Aſſertion, that *Toriſm* can never agree with Trade which is in other Hands, and can never be in theirs, while Perſecution and Diſcord are ſo much encourag'd by them.

Now there is not a greater Enemy to Trade than Perſecution. It was ſhe that ruin'd the Manufactures and Commerce of the *Spaniſh Netherlands*. It was ſhe that tranſplanted the Looms of *France* into *Great Britain*, *Germany* and *Holland*, and what Havock was ſhe about to make in *England* when *Toriſm* put Weapons into her Hands in the latter part of King *Charles*'s Reign. The Goals were crowded with the moſt ſubſtantial Tradeſmen and Inhabitants, the Clothiers were forc'd from their Houſes, and thouſands of Workmen and Women, whom they employ'd, ſet to ſtarving: Upon which I cannot but remember the Story of an honeſt *Wiltſhire* Clothier, a *Presbyterian*, who being proſecuted by the Spiritual Court, their Agent, the Curate of the

Pariſh

Pariſh, and the Beggarly Informers, was compell'd to quit his Habitation, and to ſhut up his Work-houſes, on which depended above a thouſand Families for Bread. The Caſe of this Clothier being told his Majeſty, he was pleas'd to ſend for him, and enquire into the Extent of his Trade, neither did he omit repreſenting to him the Convenience as well as the Duty of his Conformity. The Clothier excus'd not his not complying with his Majeſty's Pleaſure for Conſcience ſake, expreſſing himſelf not concern'd for his own Loſs by the Profit he made of the Labour of 5 or 6000 Souls, but for their want of Employment and Subſiſtance, which made ſuch an Impreſſion on the King, an excellent good Natur'd Prince when he was left to the Freedom of his Will and the Exerciſe of his Power, that he ſent Orders to his Dioceſan to connive at the Clothier's Nonconformity, which was done accordingly.

How near akin *Toriſm* and *Perſecution* are, we need not give our ſelves the Trouble to demonſtrate. One may hear it trumpetted every *Sunday* at *St. Andrew's Holbourn*, *St. Sepulchres*, *White-Chappel*, and from many other Pulpits

ſo

ſo well fill'd with Men of Apoſtolical Principles and Practices.

How many thouſand Families did the fiery Zeal of the *Old Tories* under their Archbiſhop *Laud* drive out of *England*, moſt of them Tradeſmen, the loſs of whom was thought by ſome to be felt by us at this Day, it being a Moot Caſe whether we get or loſe by the *Britiſh* Hands in *America*; but granting, what is my own Opinion, that the Trade of *Great Britain* is rather incourag'd than diminiſh'd by our Colonies, 'tis certain their Perſecutors did not foreſee that their Baniſhment would have ſo good an effect, nor ſend them to the Wilderneſſes of *New England*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *Carolina*, *&c.* with a deſign to advance Trade and Navigation. I muſt own thoſe Men had never any juſt Notice of the Riches that People are to a Nation. I do not find *Toriſm* was ever engaged on the ſide of a Naturalization Bill, which is certainly very Beneficial to Trade.

The Glory of England *is Men and Money*, ſays the Author I laſt made uſe of, England *has in a competent Proportion the Bleſſing of both, but might be improv'd to more than double; for at the moſt moderate Computation it is not half*

Peo-

Peopled, and ſince there is ſo much wanting in Number, the beſt way to ſupply that Deficiency is by Induſtry.

I believe if one could procure three or four Ship Loading of Merchants to come hither and bring as many Plumbs with them, they would not be beaten back. But there are ſeveral Men who have an Objection ready againſt any Propoſals for encreaſing our People. If you offer ſuch a Colony they are *Beggars*, and ſuch a one they are *Schiſmaticks*, by which means, one Part of the Glory of the Nation, *Men*, is diminiſh'd, and what *Toriſm* has done with *Credit*, which is almoſt as good in Trade and Politicks as Money, I think I need not trouble my ſelf or Reader about at this time. Sometimes we are told * *Credit depends upon Nothing and NoBody*: † *That it ought to be look'd upon as a Cheat.* As to the *No Whenneſs and no Whenneſs of it*, and its being the *Eſſential Shadow of Something that is not.* I think one need not go about to anſwer ſuch Objections, I'll engage to do it effectually, when any Mortal alive can underſtand a Word of it; yet theſe, and Arguments no better than theſe went not long ago a great way in putting our Credit and the *French*

* *Eſſay upon Credit*
† *Truth on both Sides.*

on

on the ſame Foot, and reducing our Bank to the Condition of the Town-Houſe at *Paris*: But thanks to our Stars, a good Peace has ſet all to Rights again, and we have now nothing to do but to take Care that our Trade ſhould flouriſh as well as our Credit. What we are to hope for from *Toriſm* in that Caſe has been hinted already. Can we imagine that Perſons who have two ſuch Intereſts on their ſide, as a *Church Intereſt* and a *Land Intereſt* will be mindful of ſo Paltry an Intereſt as Trade. The *Examiner*, who was poſſeſs'd more than any Man with the *Dæmon* of *Toriſm*, was always launching out in his Panegyricks on the *Land Intereſt* and *Church Intereſt*, and tho he had not quite Front enough to ſtand by what his old Friend *Caſtlemain* ſaid, that we ſhould have no *Trade at all*, yet he never fail'd to maul it when ever it fell in his way.

'Twas out of ſpite to it that he call'd the *Dutch* the greateſt Traders in the World, *Herring Curers*; and ſays of their State, that they Govern their *Republick with the Spirit of Shopkeepers*. I have before me ſome Reflections on that Ingenious *Tory* on the ſame Subject, which are very *apropos* on this

this Head. *Let him*, ſays the Author of them, *give into the Opinion of a famous Senator of his Party, who being informed that the* Turkiſh *Fleet was loſt in a Storm, Swore*, D—— him he was glad of it, for the Citizens grew ſo proud there would be no humbling of them till they were Poor; *or of another leading Man among them, who being ſollicited by the* Weſt India *Merchants and Planters to favour them in an Affair depending in Parliament, curſs'd them and their Plantation, ſwearing*, He wiſh'd them all at the Devil, for they were good for nothing but to be a Receptacle to Fanaticks.

I doubt not, Sir, you could furniſh me with many Inſtances of the Services Trade has met with from ſome Men, and could tell me at large the Anſwer of a ſmall Officer of the *Livery Stamp* to ſome Merchants who made Application to him in a certain Affair, and was anſwer'd by him, *They muſt not hope for any ſuch Thing, for Monſieur ſuch a one*, naming a *Frenchman* of great Note, *ſince the Month of* September 1711, *was too much concerned himſelf in Intereſt in it ever to let it paſs as they would have it.*

I doubt not alſo you could tell me what Care was taken to have that Anſwer ſuppreſt, what Excuſes were made for it, what Sollicitations for Silence, which have prevail'd ſo far as to keep it in a great meaſure from me, or I would have told not only you, but all the World of it.

This Accident naturally leads me to conſider the State of our Trade with reſpect to *France*, and how far *Toriſm* has given Incouragement to the only Trade in the World, by which we can be undone. I will not ſay what were the firſt Bargains it made with *France*, after the *Reſtauration*, how it dealt with her for *Dunkirk*, ſold her Ship Stores, taught her the Art of Building Ships, and furniſh'd her with the Materials, all that goes for nothing in Compariſon of the Invaſions it ſuffer'd her to make on our Tariff, till our loſs in the Ballance of Trade with her roſe Yearly to eleven or twelve hundred thouſand Pounds. In the time of the Penſion Parliament, when there was a Debate about a War with *France* for the Preſervation of the *Netherlands*, which was very warm on the 30th of *March* 1677. Thoſe who were againſt it, ſaid, among other Things, *That* England *being a*

Trading

Trading Nation, could not endure a War. To which it was anſwer'd, *That it had been made appear, and that in Parliament, that upon the Ballance of the* French *Trade this Nation was detrimented by it* 900000 l. *or a Million; the Value of the Goods exported hence thither, whereby it is evident that ſuch a Sum of the Treaſury Money of the Nation was Yearly exhauſted and carry'd into* France, *and all this for unneceſſary Wines, Silks, Ribbons, Feathers, &c. the ſaving and retrenching of which Expence and Exhauſting, will in a great degree ſerve to maintain the Charge of a War.*

Now tho it is not to be ſuppos'd that the *French* broke in all at once ſo furiouſly on our Tariff, yet if we loſt two or three hundred thouſand Pounds Yearly more by that Trade afterwards to the Year 1688, we may form a Medium of a Million from Sixty eight to Eighty eight, which amounts to twenty Millions Sterling, and the Improvement of ſuch Twenty Millions in Twenty five Years ſince, will amount by a common Calculation to as much as the Charge of the laſt Glorious War. And if ſo many Millions were loſt by us and gain'd by our Enemy, the Loſs to us is

double, inaſmuch as we are weaken'd as much as they are ſtrengthen'd by it, and then without being the beſt Arithmetician in *Europe*, we may eaſily calculate that the Trade with *France* for Twenty Years only, between 1668 and 1688, was to our Damage as much as the Two *French* Wars.

How may this Argument be further improv'd by conſidering, that if we had not been ſuch Loſers in the *French* Trade, we might probably have gain'd as much in others, and the Improvement of that Gain for Twenty Five Years in the way of Commerce, wou'd amount to a Treaſure which wou'd frighten one to hear nam'd, when we reflect that Care and Conduct might have made it ours. Trade may as well Impoveriſh a Nation as enrich it; the Trade of *Spain* and *Portugal* Beggars thoſe Nations, and our Trade wou'd do the ſame by us, were it not for our Manufactures. How thoſe will be prejudic'd by a new Commerce with *France*, one may eaſily imagine by the univerſal Allarm the Fears of it only put the Nation in, or they wou'd not have ſo ſoon follow'd their Loyal Addreſſes with Petitions. *Our Trade with* France, ſays an Author of good Credit

dit, *in all Ages paſt ſufficiently proves, that our Kingdom may be made Poor by Trade, as we ſhou'd have been by the vaſt Treaſure their Linens, Wines, Silks, Toys, and Salt, drew from this Kingdom, if our other Commerce in the World had not ballanc'd our Loſs there.*

Of all the Nations upon Earth, the *French* are thoſe that ſhou'd get the leaſt by us; for we may depend upon it, that there can be no Augmentation of Wealth and Power accrue to *France*, which we or our Poſterity will not be oblig'd to ſtruggle with, if not to ſubmit to it: And what Fools ſhall we be to contribute ſo far to our own Ruin, as to pick out that Nation to be bubbles to 'em in Trade, whom of all Mankind we ought to be upon our Guard againſt, that they may not get a Penny by us.

Old *Double*, the reputed Author of the *Mercator*, whoſe Judgment is as Superficial as it is Inconſtant, told us in King *William*'s time, that the Trade to *France* cou'd never hurt *England*, if that were ſettled on the ſame Foot with the *Dutch*, as in his Diſcourſe on the *Eaſt India* Trade; but he inſiſts upon it, that without ſuch a Tariff it wou'd hurt us, as may be ſeen in his own dear Words, If

'If 'tis expected, *says he*, the high 'Duties now lying upon *French* Com-'modities shou'd be taken off, the 'Legislative Power here may reaso-'nably insist upon the following 'Terms.

I. 'That we may carry thither all 'sorts of Goods, the Importation of 'which is not universally forbidden 'to their own Subjects.

II. 'Particularly as to the *Levant* 'Goods, that we may be permitted 'to carry them to *Marseilles* and other 'Places in *France*, where the Impor-'tation is allow'd of, and that the Im-'position thereupon of 20 *l. per Cent* 'be taken of.

III. 'That the Duties laid upon our 'Woollen Manufactures may be les-'sen'd; if 'tis expected the Duties up-'on *French* Wine and Linnen should 'be lessen'd here.

IV. 'That it may be free for us to 'carry thither Sugars, Tobacco, and 'other Goods of our Plantation Pro-'duct, under moderate Duties.

V. 'That all Edicts and Tariffs be 'revok'd, which forbid the importing 'or wearing of our *East India* Goods, 'and that the Imposition upon 'em 'be reduc'd to the same Proportion as

'shall

'shall be thought convenient to lay 'here upon the Luxurious Consump- 'tion of Commodities brought from 'France hither.

VI. 'That the Imposition of 50 'Pence upon Foreign Shipping be 'taken off as to *England*.

These, Sir, are the Demands of the *Mercator* in the Reign of King *William*, and amount to this, that we have Liberty to carry our Cloth, our Stockings, our Hats, our every thing to *France*; to sell our *Turkey* and *East India* Goods there, as also our Sugars, Tobacco, Cotton, Ginger, *&c.* To this he adds, *The Publick of this Kingdom may very well insist upon having things brought as near as possible to the Posture they were in about the Year* 1664. And pray compare them with that Honest and experienc'd Gentleman's Project in his New Paper, if you, who are a Merchant, and feel what he only dreams of, can bear reading such a parcel of incongruous, unintelligible Jargon.

I have seen an Author * of much better Authority, because of much greater Worth and Experience than this Weekly Projector, who gives us a Calculation

* *Britannia Languens.*

tion of the Trade of *France* with reſpect to us and other Nations, which wou'd make us afraid of giving a helping Hand to the encreaſe of it. *Beſides what the* French *receive from all the Regions of the World*, ſays he, *they draw from the* Northern *Countries only*,

By their Wines,	2,500,000
By their Salt,	1,000,000
By their Brandies,	500,000
By their Silks, Stuffs, Toys, and Fripperies,	4,000,000
Total	8,000,000

To corroborate the aforeſaid Calculation, made by a Merchant, we need only take notice, that in one Article, that of Wrought Silks, we imported to the value of 600000 *l. per Annum*, as appears by Mr. *Fortrey*'s Computation. That Loſs has been ſav'd with a great many other Advantages by the Silk Manufacture in *England*, which will be entirely ruin'd by the Imports of Silks, if we lay that Trade open to them, or give them any Encouragement in it. This was prov'd with great force of Truth and Reaſon by Coll. *L' Eccleux* before the Houſe of

of Lords; yet Old *Double* tells you very plainly, that our *Silk Manufacture is a Trifle that we muſt give it up*, &c. as much as to ſay, that the maintaining of Ten or Twenty Thouſand Families ſignifies nothing, and that out of Complacency to our Neighbouring Catholicks we muſt turn Fifty Thouſand *Hugonots* a Starving. I own Religion has no great Concern in this Controverſy, but I challenge this Project-Monger to give me a better Reaſon for the giving up that Trade to *France*, than becauſe the one are *Papiſts* and the other *Proteſtants*. I have not Time or Inclination to enter the Liſts with this intereſted Theoriſt, who talks of Trade in the *Park* as a Mathematician does of Navigation on *Hampſtead* Hill.

Whatever Schemes he built his Calculations on, they were none of his own, he borrow'd them of Mr *King* of the Herald Office; and tho' it is eaſie to diſprove all his Political Arithmetick, and confute all Mr *King*'s Schemes, which overthrows the Building this Projector has made on them; yet becauſe he can marſhal up three or four Ranks of Numbers, which are like ſo many magical Figures to certain Politicians, becauſe he has acquir'd a little Mercantile Court, he is made much of

as a Perſon extreamly well acquainted with Trade: Nevertheleſs I will lay him as much Money as he is worth, that he cannot fit out a Ship for *Newfoundland*, nor make out an *Invoice* for *Virginia*. This Man, who uſurps the Office of *Chief Director of the Commerce of* Great Britain, after having been very unhappy in a new Trade, ſet up upon the Revolution, the laying Wagers againſt the Government, the firſt News we hear of him is a Project to raiſe Money, upon which I have heard aStory; that applying himſelf to a Man of Quality for a Poſt, and being recommended by him to the Lord *H*——, that Lord did prefer him to one; I think it was Surveyor of the Woods and Foreſts, worth between three and four hundred Pounds a Year, which when this worthy Gentleman heard of, he came to his Lordſhip and ſaid, he had a Project for the Publick Service, and he doubted not it wou'd deſerve a better Employment. This Project was no more nor no leſs than a ſort of Spunge, the putting a ſtop to the Payment of the Debts already contracted, and making uſe of the Money appropriated for that uſe; which when the Noble Lord underſtood, he told him it wou'd be to ruin the King's

Affairs

Affairs, and he might depend upon it, as long as he had any Share in the Management of the Buſineſs of the Publick, he ſhou'd never be employ'd by it. This produc'd Projects upon Projects, Schemes upon Schemes, and a Poem, wherein I find theſe Verſes.

His Lubbard Genius from its Baſis croſt,
In heaps of falſe Arithmetick is loſt,
And crude Eſſays with heavy Schemes of Trade,
All undigeſted doze his Lumpiſh Head.

After this he wrote for the *Eaſt India* Company, and then for Sir *Charles Duncomb*, which doubtleſs he did for nothing, as the *Review* wrote for the *African* Company and the Colliers of *Newcaſtle*. The Times taking another Face he brings his *Double* and *Whiglove* upon the Stage, full of *Staunch* Principles, and for the very Pinacle of the Church Intereſt. Some time after another Face appearing, out comes a Voluminous Tract upon Moderation and Union. He then lay quiet for ſeveral Years, and we heard no more of him till his new Dialogues, for which he was ſo cruelly mawl'd by the *Medley*, and now lately, as it is ſuggeſted, he appears in the *Mercator*, a Paper ſo ſtuff'd with Incongruites, Falſhood, Ignorance, and

Assurance, that I wonder how any one can read it, was it not besides so mortally dull and tedious. I presage his Time will be cut very short, and that his Friends will be asham'd of an old pretending batter'd Pen, which comes Stale to the Market, and only intercepts the Reward due to Younger and usefuller Pretenders. The last Project he publish'd as to Ways and Means, was in his last Dialogue, p. 198, 201, which I shall give the Reader a Sketch of, to shew what an accomplish'd Projector he is, and that his Friends may more easily raise the Devil than Money by such Figures as his are.

A Project of the Mercator's *to raise Money.*

A Tax on Auction of Books *and* Pictures.

On Quack Bills, Almanacks, *and* Plays.

On Cockpits, Bowling-Greens, *and* Nine-Pine-Alleys.

On Shovel-Boards, Billiard Tables, Musick-Booths.

On Strong Water Shops, *and* Raree Shows.

On Vintners, Wine-Coopers, Jockeys, and Undertakers.

On Chocolate *and* Coffee-Houses

On Cards *and upon the* Jews.

Let any Man Alive judge whether this Writer who has study'd all Ways and Projects to raise Money from wagering upon *Mons* to the Ballance of the

the Trade of the World, is not a rare Pen to direct us in the ſettling our Traffick. He who never traded in any thing but Policies of Inſurance and other *Coercive* Papers, and has rais'd all his *Heavy Schemes* from the Hearſay of People of almoſt as little Experience as himſelf. How can a little Scrivener of *Birchin Lane*, or a Dealer in Stocks and Funds inſtruct any one in the Advantages of Trade in General and Particular, and ſet the Commerce of the World with reſpect to *England*, in a Ballance.

There are as great Qualities neceſſary to do this, as to perform any one Act of Science; and a Man can no more ſucceed in it without Experience, than a *Caſe-Graver* can make a *Watch*. Some Merchants themſelves have but imperfect Notions of this great Ballance of Trade, moſt of them dive into it no farther than it has Relation to this Part of the World, or that to which they Traffick: But their Beſt Heads take in all Parts of Commerce, make juſt Obſervations upon all, go to the Bottom of Things, and prove them by Practice.

From theſe Men it is we ſhould look for Informations, and not from any Conceited Enterprizing *Theoriſt*, pre-

par'd

par'd to *aſſert* or *confute* according as he is paid, and having Lights of all Kinds, he puts his Picture in that which his Cuſtomer wants to purchaſe of him; Ask a *Virginia* Merchant what are the Profits and Laws of Exchange. How a Nation gets or loſes by the Riſe or Fall of them, it is well if you find he knows the Difference between a *Stiver* and a *Milree*. Ask the Dealers in Exchange how it comes that we get by ſending our Money to the *Eaſt Indies*, a Point *Old Double* labours with more Warmth than any other, he is loſt, and can as eaſily ſolve a *Problem* in *Euclid*; but the *Mercator* is the very Soul of Trade, he has it Root and Branch, and without ever having dealt for a Penny in his Life, can tell you how to grow Rich or Poor, and Poor or Rich, the very ſame way. according as you are diſpos'd to hear him and pay him.

If after all this you ſhould demand why I do not deſcend to Particulars, and prove his Falſities? Beſides that, the Voice of the People in their *Petitions* from all Quarters of the Kingdom cry out againſt this Trade-Sophiſter. I doubt not the Senſe of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, the Wiſeſt and moſt Auguſt Body in the World

World will declare it ſelf in a Day or two to the Silence and Confuſion of this Dreamer in Trade. Intereſt never lyes, if *Merchants*, *Clothiers*, *&c.* were not ſure the *French* Trade on the *Mercator*'s Foot would ruin us, no Faction, no Party could prevail on them to interrupt the general Joy of the Nation on the late *Peace*. Petitions would not claſh with Addreſſes as thoſe from *Leeds* did. For I am ſatisfy'd all the good People of *England* have ſuch a Dutiful Affection for Her Majeſty, who has ſo glorioufly and happily reign'd over them, that there is not a Man of them would ſhew the leaſt uneaſineſs in his Obedience to her Royal Pleaſure, if Intereſt and the Preſervation of Trade did not compel him to lay the fair State of the Caſe before our Repreſentatives in Parliament, whom her Majeſty has been ſo Graciouſly pleas'd to conſult in the Courſe of theſe Negotiations, and whoſe Advice is not ſo unneceſſary as the Enemies to all Parliamentary Rights and Privileges, the Enemies to our Conſtitution, and the Friends to *France* are pleas'd to repreſent it.

I muſt here do *Double* the Juſtice to own I can hardly think it is done him by common Fame in laying the *Mercator*

tor at his Door. The Life of that wretched Paper is like to be very ſhort. It vaniſhes at a Breath from the Houſe of Commons, and I would not for a good deal that a Man who has been ſo good a Friend to the Preſs as *Tom Double* ſhould be ſo diſgrac'd as to ſee all his fine Projects blaſted in ſo few Days. Who put him upon Writing, and for what end I ſhall not trouble my Head about. If the Petitioners ſucceed I know he will have writ to no End, and whoever put him upon it will be aſham'd of him. To contradict the Experience of all the Traders in *England*, for has there one Merchant, one Tradeſman defended his Cauſe tho ſo often defy'd to do it. To contradict the Experience of fifty Years Commerce and to give no better Authority than his own bare Word for it, muſt end in the moſt terrible Mortification that every poor Man met with, the Contempt that is the Conſequence of baffled Error and Preſumption. I cannot doubt the good Effects of the Wiſdom and Juſtice of the *Britiſh* Parliament and to their Determinations all Loyal *Britains* will reſign themſelves with Pleaſure.

I ſhall in the next Place, remember you, Sir, of a ſmall Difference between the *Mercator* and *Old Double* about the

Land

Land Intereſt, which *Toriſm* affects to be mighty Zealous for out of ſpite to its *ill willer Trade*. The *Examiner*, who pretends to every thing, has often entertain'd us on this Subject. He cannot caſt Account ſo well as *Tom Double*, but he can aſſert every whit as well, and ſpeak of Things he knows nothing of. This *Land Intereſt Tom Double* in his laſt Dialogues would fain have ſet up above Trade, giving entirely into the Principles of *Toriſm*; but alas he did it purely for Faſhion ſake and for want of Memory, for himſelf has clear'd that Argument perfectly well, and I chuſe to make uſe of it becauſe his Word will have weight with ſuch as will allow none to have Senſe that are not of their own ſide, and that Monſieur *Double* is a *Staunch Tory* we may be ſure of by the Company he was caught in at the *Blue Poſts* in the *Hay Market*, no leſs a *Tory* than Monſieur *Pouſſin*, for by *Tory* I never mean an Honeſt Churchman, Zealous for the Prerogatives of the Crown and Church, a good Subject and an *Engliſhman*, but a downright Friend to *France* and the Pretender.

Notwithſtanding whatever he and the *Examiner* have ſaid of the *Land Intereſt*, whatever Common Senſe dictates that Land can be worth nothing without Trade as to our Defence, and conſequently

ſequently our Preſervation, I ſhall for the Satisfaction of ſome Honeſt Gentlemen who run away with a Notion of the Preference of the Land to the Trade Intereſt, remember him what the *Mercator*, or the Reputed *Mercator*, ſays of it in another Diſcourſe of his.

'Many in their Debates and Councils ſeem to have no other View and 'Aim than to promote the immediate 'Intereſt of Land, they are always warm 'in the Concerns of it, and more indifferent and careleſs in what relates to 'Trade than perhaps is conſiſtent with 'the Welfare and Safety of this Kingdom. After he has argued further on this Head, he comes to his Demonſtrations, which nearly touch thoſe who are accus'd by him of this Indifference and Careleſsneſs. 'Tis not hard 'to ſhew, ſays he, what is the Annual Income of *England* from Land 'Trade, and all ſorts of Buſineſs, and 'what is the Annual Expence of the 'whole People both in War and Peace, 'and how much the National Stock 'increaſes in Time of Peace, *&c.* He then goes on with his Schemes, which if the Enemies to Trade ever read and underſtood, they would never let a Crew of Mercenary Scriblers divide the *Land* and *Trade Intereſt*, but look upon them

to

to be inſeparable, and that when they promote that of *Trade*, they promote that of *Land* alſo, which is very eaſy to prove. 'Tis no Matter whether his Schemes are his own or not. I am very well ſatisfy'd they are all borrow'd by his Performances ſince and his blind Arguments on ſuch juſt Plans. Since 1666. 'ſays this Doctor of Commerce, the 'Price of *Land* in the beſt Counties 'was come from 20 to 26 and 27 Years 'Purchaſe, and in thoſe Parts where 'formerly it was ſold for 14 Years Pur-'chaſe it yielded 17 and 18. And as to 'Money upon *Land Security* there was 'much more lent out at that Time at 4 'and 4 and a half than at 5 or 6 *per Cent.* 'From that Year there were more 'Improvements made in *Land* than 'had been known in 50 Years before, 'by encloſing, Manuring, taking in of 'waſte Ground, and meliorating what 'was poor or barren. He argues thus on a Suppoſition that from 1666 we flouriſh'd in Trade, and that from our ſo flouriſhing by it, this Value and Improvement of Land roſe. He then ſhews how by Trade our General Rental for Lands, Houſes, Mines, *&c.* encreas'd after our Commerce became conſiderable, which Scheme of his is as follows.

The General Rental in 1600	6,000,000
The Land, *&c.* then worth at 12 Years Purchaſe.	72,000,000

The Gen. Rental in 1688	14,000,000
The Land, *&c.* then worth 18 Years Purchase by a *Medium.*	252,000,000

By this it appears, that the Lands of *England* were risen in value in 88 Years 180 Millions, and was worth almost four times as much at the latter End as at the Beginning of that Century. Let us now see how our Stock rose in value also. By Stock is comprehended *Coin'd Silver, Coin'd Gold, Bullion, Wrought Plate, Rings, and Jewels, Furniture, Apparel,* &c. *Stock for Trade, Consumption,* &c. *and the Live Cattel,* &c.

The Stock of *England* was,

In the Year 1600	17,000,000
In the Year 1630	28,000,000
In the Year 1660	56,000,000
In the Year 1688	88,000,000

And without the Interruption of Wars, wou'd, according to him, have been 112 Millions. Thus Trade improv'd, our Stock near one hundred Millions in Ninety Year, and our Land 180 Millions: And the General Wealth of the Nation in Land, Trade, *&c.* almost Three Hundred Millions.

This, Sir, is the *Interest* the *Examiner* and all other Tory Writers cry down, in Complaisance to the Land Interest, which

which wou'd be ruin'd without it. Nor are these last Schemes Fanciful and Imaginary; whoever help'd Old *Double* to them, they are pretty near the Truth. I might now observe how modest this Writer is in the same Treatise, where he falls upon Mr *Pollexfin*, a Member of Parliament, one of the Commissioners of Trade, and what is more a wealthy Merchant, calling him by way of Reproach, a *Lisbon* Factor, *a Dealer to Portugal*, and the like, and endeavouring to prove, that Merchants are not as fit Judges as He of the Trade of the World, giving this humble Parallel as an Instance of it; *It was to the deep Judgment of the Ministers of State*, Richlieu *and* Colbert, *and not to the Merchants, that* France *ow'd the Prosperity of their Trade.* I do not think 'tis in Trade as in Poetry, that a Man may be a good Critick and yet be a bad Poet, or no Poet at all; and since the *Mercator* is not yet a *Richlieu* nor a *Colbert*, and probably must be content with the Post of a *Commis* or a *Financier*, instead of that of a Minister of State 'twill be wise in him to leave the Province of Trade to the Merchants, who have travell'd the Country, and not set up for a Guide when he knows not one Step of the way.

It

It might not be Foreign from my Subject to offer ſomething in behalf of the Mony'd Intereſt as to the Credit of ſuch as are poſſeſs'd of it, and to endeavour to prove, that he who has 6000 *l.* by him in Money and Money's worth, deſerves Truſt as much as he who has 300 *l.* a Freehold for Life, in Old Houſes or Land, in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*. I might alſo recommend to thoſe who are ſuch Enemies to Trade, the Reputation it has always been in with Wiſe Politicians, and that if they wou'd gain ſo honourable a Name, they muſt come nearer to the Opinion of their great Maſter *Machiavel*, who ſays in his *Decades* on *Livy*, ſpeaking of certain *Florentines* or *Piſans*, who thought no Science ſo Noble and Beneficial as that of *Heraldry*, that *Gentlemen are a ſort of People who are uſeleſs Members of Society, and the Plagues of Princes and Common-wealths* It will be ſaid, that he who ſaid it was a Man of Republican Principles: However, I care not for that, what he ſays is on my ſide, and ſeems to prove that the *Whigs* and *Tories* of all Countries have differ'd as to their Sentiments of Trade; that the former have been always for and the latter againſt it.

Since the Writing the preceding Pages, happy News is come for the Trade of *England*, the Houſe of Commons, the greateſt Bulwark of our Trade and Liberty, has thrown out the Bill that allarm'd all the *Britiſh* Traders; and the *Mercator* has the Shame to have written 10 or 20 Papers of the moſt Flagrant Falſities and Inconſiſtencies to no manner of Purpoſe. All the Comfort the poor Creature can have, is, that they will be forgotten in as few Weeks as they were written, and happy will it be for him if he is himſelf as ſoon forgotten as his Writings.

I muſt now, Sir, clear you from all the Offence that any body may take at what has been ſaid in a Letter, of which you will know nothing till you ſee it in Print, and perhaps not then. The Author is a Lover of his Country, and conſequently of its Trade; and as you are a Patriot and a Merchant, he cou'd not addreſs theſe Curſory Reflections to a Gentleman more capable of protecting them; tho' 'tis very unlikely you ſhou'd grant your Protection to a Perſon who has been at ſo little Pains to court it; but is entirely *Your*, &c.

FINIS.